

Astropol Finishing and Polishing System (Project 00-13) (01/01)

The Astropol Finishing and Polishing System from Vivadent is a new product for finishing and polishing resin-based restorative materials. It consists of rubber points (small and large), cups, and disks in three grits mounted on metal, latch-type mandrels. The F (Finishers) grit is impregnated with silicon dioxide and is used to remove excess resin and pre-polish the restoration. The second grit, P (Polishers), also contains silicon dioxide and is used for producing a high gloss with microfills. The last grit, HP (High Polishers), contains silicon dioxide and fine diamond particles to produce a high luster on the surface of hybrid resin composites. The Astropol Assortment Package contains 24 finishers/polishers in a 4 inch X 6 inch plastic bur block with a removable clear plastic cover. Vivadent claims the finishers/polishers can be autoclaved for multiple uses.



Manufacturer:

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Suggested Retail Price:

\$99.00 Astropol Finishing and Polishing System Assortment Package (item number 557625) contains: 12 F Finishers, 8 P Polishers, and 4 HP Polishers

Government Price:

\$35.50 Astropol Finishing and Polishing System Assortment Package (item number and contents as listed above)

ADVANTAGES:

- + Various sizes and shapes allow for good access for finishing/polishing.
- + Metal-less finishing disks prevent marring of the restoration's surface during finishing.
- + All points, cups, and disks are pre-mounted on latch mandrels for rapid placement in handpiece.
- + Can be autoclaved for multiple uses.
- + Concise instruction booklet describes product use clearly.
- + Provided with Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

DISADVANTAGES:

- Finish produced was generally adequate, but two of the five users felt it was inferior to that achieved with other products.
- F finishers are inefficient at removing excess composite.
- Too few HP-grit polishers are provided.
- Disks have a thicker edge than those of other products (e.g., Sof-Lex, Enhance) which users may find limits interproximal access.
- Shade difference between the color-coded grits is minimal making it difficult to differentiate between them.
- Plastic holding block is larger than it needs to be.
- Instructions refer to expiration date, but none is given.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

In general, clinical evaluators found that the Astropol system produced an acceptable, but not outstanding polish for their resin-based restorations. Several nice features are seen with the system's points, cups, and disks such as their different sizes and shapes, absence of metal hubs, and premounting on latch-type mandrels. Unfortunately, the product's advantages and disadvantages are evenly matched, which make it difficult to recommend Astropol as a substitute for current polishing/finishing systems. The **Astropol Finishing and Polishing System** is rated **Acceptable** for use by the federal dental services.